

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 16-18, and 24 are currently being amended. No new matter has been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-19 and 21-27 are now pending in this application.

1. Rejection of Claims 18 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Failla in View of Koenig

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Failla (U.S. Patent No. 5,128,662) in view of Koenig (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2002/0021258).

Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite a combination including, among other elements, “a flexible touch sensor associated with the expandable display, the sensing area of the touch sensor being enlarged when the expandable display is unfolded,” which is not taught or suggested by any proper combination of Failla and Koenig. The Examiner acknowledged that “Failla fails to teach a touch sensor associated with the expandable display as claimed.” However, the Examiner stated that “Koenig teaches an expandable display, which uses a touch sensor, associated with the display, the touch sensor being enlarged when the expandable display is unfolded (Koenig, Fig. 3, Pg. 2 paragraph [0034]).” The Examiner thus concluded that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the touch sensitive display as taught by Koenig to the display device of Failla in order to provide a convenient interactive tool for data input.”

Applicants respectfully submit, particularly in light of the amendments made to independent claim 18, that Koenig fails to teach or suggest “a flexible touch sensor associated with the expandable display, the sensing area of the touch sensor being enlarged when the expandable display is unfolded,” as recited in independent claim 18, as amended. Koenig teaches the use of discrete screens, each with a separate image, which may have “a mouse, stylus, touch screen, or other input device such as known to those skilled in the art, for each screen.” Koenig does not teach or suggest a “flexible touch sensor” where “the sensing area of the touch sensor [is] enlarged when the expandable display is unfolded,” as recited in independent claim 18 (as amended).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the combination of Failla in view of Koenig fails to teach or suggest at least one limitation of independent claim 18, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 18, and corresponding dependent claim 21, be withdrawn.

2. Rejection of Claims 24-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Failla in View of Katsura and Koenig

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Failla in view of Katsura (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,324) and Koenig.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite a combination including, among other elements, providing input via both “a first sensing area of a touch sensor associated with the first viewing area of the flexible display,” and “a second sensing area of the touch sensor comprising the first sensing area and associated with the enlarged viewing area of the flexible display, the second sensing area being larger than the first sensing area,” which is not taught or suggested by Failla, alone or in any proper combination with Katsura and Koenig. The Examiner acknowledged that “Failla fails to teach providing input to the handheld computer via the touch sensor comprising the first sensing area and a second sensing area associated with the enlarged viewing area of the flexible display and that the first sensing are[a] is associated with the first viewing area of the flexible display.” However, the Examiner stated that “Katsura teaches an expandable display, which use[s] a touch sensor, with a view area

associated with a first view area, the touch sensor being enlarged when the display is unfolded (Katsura, Figs. 1-3 Col. 5 lines 12-20).” The Examiner thus concluded that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the touch sensitive sensor as taught by Katsura to the display device of Failla in order to provide a convenient tool for data input.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Katsura does not teach or disclose a touch sensor that is “enlarged” when the display is unfolded, and further does not teach or disclose first and second sensing areas for the touch sensor where “the second sensing area is larger than the first sensing area,” as recited in amended independent claim 24. Katsura teaches a “flexible liquid crystal display panel” that is mounted on a mounting member having a clearance groove for the bend in the panel. Katsura further teaches that the “flexible liquid crystal display panel 4 has, as an integral part of it, a touch-sensitive input operating part through which data can be entered by touching.” Katsura does not address touch sensors with varying sensing areas, and does not teach or suggest a touch sensor that is “enlarged” when the display is unfolded and has first and second different-sized sensing areas, as recited in independent claim 24. As discussed with respect to claim 18 above, Koenig likewise fails to teach or suggest such a touch sensor that has a sensing area that is enlarged with the display when unfolded.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the combination of Failla in view of Katsura and Koenig fails to teach or suggest at least one limitation of independent claim 24, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 24, and corresponding dependent claims 25-27, be withdrawn.

3. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Bodony et al. in View of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodony et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,751) in view of Gamsaragan et al. (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2002/0140690) and Failla.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have each been amended to recite a combination including, among other elements, a foldable/flexible display “configured in more than two sections, each section being foldable behind another section, such that whatever sections are viewable by a user are the display area being used” by the portable computing/host device. The Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action that “Bodony as modified by Gamsaragan fails to teach that a foldable display being configured in more than two sections, each section being foldable behind another section.” However, the Examiner went on to state that “Failla teaches a foldable display assembly being configured in more than two sections, each section being foldable behind another section, such that whatever sections are in view of the user comprises the display area being used by the host device (Failla, Fig. 46-47).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the conclusion made by the Examiner with respect to Failla. Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to clarify the features of the claims, in particular, such that “whatever sections are viewable by a user are the display area being used” by the device. Failla, in discussing Figures 46 and 47 (cited by the Examiner), teaches a collapsible display that is used in a “predetermined viewing array.” Col. 14, lines 31-32. Failla further contains numerous other references to the “predetermined array” for the displays of the various embodiments disclosed therein (see, e.g., abstract; col. 3, lines 7-8; col. 10, lines 55-56), and does not teach a device that uses only those sections of a foldable/flexible display that are viewable. The collapsible features of Failla do not address and are not directed to providing variable sizes of display areas where only certain sections of the displays are used, but rather to enhancing the portability of displays by making displays collapsible. Failla does not disclose a display such that “whatever sections are viewable by a user are the display area being used” by the device, as recited in claims 1, 7, and 13.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 7, and 13 are further patentable because no combination of Bodony et al., Gamsaragan et al., and Failla teaches or suggests “wherein during use of the flexible electronic display each section folded behind another section is not exposed when the flexible electronic display is coupled to the host device,” as recited in claim 1 (with similar limitations being contained in claims 7 and 13). The Examiner references only Figures 46-50 of Failla in support of the teaching or suggestion of this limitation: “Failla clearly shows that the foldable display shown in Fig. 46 can be used in a portable computer as

shown in 49, as such if the display is folded as well as attached to the computer than it is also stored and not exposed (Failla, Fig. 48 and 49).” Applicants point out, however, that Figures 48-49 of Failla disclose a display that is used in a “predetermined viewing orientation.” Col. 15, lines 16-17. Failla does not disclose a display where during use the unused sections are not exposed. In Failla, either all of the display is used and exposed (e.g., in the “predetermined viewing orientation”), or the display is collapsed, and not in use. Failla does not teach or suggest “wherein during use of the flexible electronic display each section folded behind another section is not exposed when the flexible electronic display is coupled to the host device,” as recited in claim 1 (with similar limitations being contained in claims 7 and 13).

Accordingly, because Bodony et al. in view of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla fails to teach or suggest at least one limitation in each of independent claims 1, 7, and 13, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13, and corresponding dependent claims 3, 4, 9, 10, and 15, be withdrawn.

4. Rejection of Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Bodony et al. in View of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla and Further in View of Comiskey et al.

On page 9 of the Office Action, claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodony et al. in view of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla, and further in view of Comiskey et al. (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0067427).

Claims 2 and 5 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 8 and 11 depend from independent claim 7. Claims 14 and 16 depend from independent claim 13. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13, as discussed above, are believed to be patentable over Bodony et al. in view of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla. Comiskey et al. does not appear to make up for the deficiencies of Bodony et al., Gamsaragan et al., and Failla with respect to independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 16 are patentable for at least the same reasons and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 16 be withdrawn.

5. Rejection of Claims 6, 12, and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Bodony et al. in View of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla and Further in View of Charlier et al.

On page 10 of the Office Action, claims 6, 12, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodony et al. in view of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla, and further in view of Charlier et al. (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0064751).

Claim 6 depends from independent claim 1. Claim 12 depends from independent claim 7. Claim 17 depends from independent claim 13. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13, as discussed above, are believed to be patentable over Bodony et al. in view of Gamsaragan et al. and Failla. Charlier et al. does not appear to make up for the deficiencies of Bodony et al., Gamsaragan et al., and Failla with respect to independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that dependent claims 6, 12, and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 6, 12, and 17 be withdrawn.

6. Rejection of Claims 19 and 22 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Failla in View of Koenig and Further in View of Comiskey

On page 11 of the Office Action, claims 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Failla in view of Katsura, and further in view of Comiskey et al.

Claims 19 and 22 depend from independent claim 18. As discussed above, independent claim 18 has been amended and is believed to be patentable over the combination of Failla in view of Katsura. Comiskey et al. does not appear to make up for the deficiencies of Failla and Katsura with respect to independent claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 19 and 22 are patentable for at least the same reasons and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 19 and 22 be withdrawn.

7. Rejection of Claim 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Failla in View of Koenig and Further in View of Charlier et al.

On page 12 of the Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Failla in view of Koenig and further in view of Charlier et al.

Claim 23 depends from independent claim 18. Independent claim 18 has been amended and is believed to be patentable over the combination of Failla in view of Koenig. Comiskey et al. does not appear to make up for the deficiencies of Failla and Koenig with respect to independent claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 23 is patentable for at least the same reasons and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claim 23 be withdrawn.

8. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

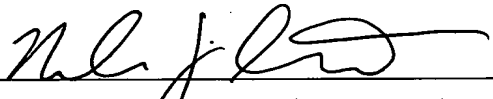
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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